In the Drawings

Applicants have herewith submitted new drawings for Figures 4A, 6A and 6B, which show the screw cap, ratchet mechanism and cover.

No new matter is added by this amendment.

Response

In the February 27, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner objected to the to the specification because it does not include section headings. In response to the Examiner's specific objections to the specification, Applicants have amended the specification to add appropriate headings.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings of this application because they do not show the screw cap of claim 61; the ratchet mechanism of claim 63; the cover of claims 70 and 76; and the polystyrene cover of claims 73 and 79.

In response to the Examiner's specific objections to the drawings, Applicant has herewith submitted new drawings for Figures 4A, 6A and 6B, which show the screw cap, ratchet mechanism and cover.

Applicants have also added new claims to more distinctly point out and claim the differences between the invention and the prior art represented particularly by US 3,970,206 and to address the informality objections raised in the office action.

No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the drawings and specification.

Remarks

In the Office Action dated February 27, 2007, the Examiner rejected pending claims 41-45, 49-51, 61, 68 and 74 as anticipated by Morash '206, and the remainder of the pending claims as obvious over Morash '206 in view of Williams WO '074, and further in view of Verbovsky '053, Haberman '245, Kornely et al. '768, Lynch '811, and Nemeth '715.

Applicant's new claims further emphasize the differences between the invention and the prior art represented particularly by US 3,970,206. In addition, the new claims resolve the objections raised in the office action.

The present invention is based on the principle of keeping the inside of a baby or toddler feeding bottle sterile prior to filling with a drink, such as milk. This is achieved by providing components of the bottle in a stackable form. In particular the container part of the bottle has a cover sealed to the rim thereof and which extends into the container allowing the containers to be stacked. When a container is removed from a stack to be used the cover is peeled off for the container to be filled. This means that the sterile integrity of the next container in the stack is not impaired whether a container has been removed from the top or the bottom of the stack.

Morash on the other hand relies on one container body to protect the next container body. Thus, Morash does not disclose the use of a cover sealed over a container body rim to maintain it in a sterile condition. Because of this Morash has certain limitations that are addressed by the present invention. While Morash requires that a fresh container can only be taken from the bottom of a stack in order to preserve the sterility of the adjacent container, in practice there is no guarantee that this procedure will be followed, as it just as easy to remove the top rather than the bottom container from the stack, and removal of the top container will expose the interior of the next container down, so that sterility is lost.

Secondly, according to Morash, each successive container in a stack is only seated against the inner surface of the next container down in the stack by a fiction fit. This fiction fit will not guarantee sterility of the interior of the next container down, as the containers are made from plastics material, which is flexible, and subject to distortion from manufacturing processes or during use, such as, for example, if the container stack; is carried in a soft bag amongst other

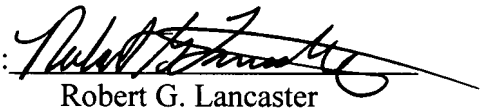
objects. Pressure on the container stack can cause distortion that can create a gap between adjacent containers. Any gap, no matter how small or temporary is sufficient to compromise sterility.

Thus, Morash is not capable of achieving its stated object. The present invention, on the other hand, by providing a seated cover over the mouth of the container and which extends into the container both maintains sterility of the interior of the container until required for use and allows stacking without the risk of distortion affecting the seal of the cover over the mouth of a container.

None of the other cited references are concerned with maintaining sterility of stackable feeding bottle containers. Accordingly, the cited references are sufficient grounds for rejection of the new claims.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments and remarks overcome the basis of the Examiner's rejection of the claims. Prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned via telephone to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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